

## MEETING MINUTES

### Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 2016

300 Sower Blvd. Room 216

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In Attendance for SWCC: Mr. Jack Roberts, Vice-Chair; Mr. Ray Adams, Secretary; Mr. Scotty Parsons; Mr. Marc Hult; Mr. Danny Shipley; and Mr. Sam Hughes.

Others Present: Ms. Kim Richardson, DOC Director; Ms. Johnna McHugh, DOC Assistant Director; Ms. Karen Woodrich, NRCS; Mr. Tim Hughes, Dept. of Ag.; Dr. Steve Higgins, UK; Ms. Kimberly Bartley, DOC; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, DOC.

Quorum was met.

**Meeting Called to Order** – at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Jack Roberts, Vice-Chair.

Ms. Kim Richardson gave a health update on Mr. John Denton. Current progress is encouraging.

**SWCC Minutes from the July 10, 2016 Meeting** - Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Danny Shipley and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

**Equipment Report** - Ms. Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies distributed.

- **Statement of Operations** – Ms. Johnna McHugh gave an overview of the year to date equipment fund report. Mr. Scotty Parsons made the motion to approve this report. Mr. Danny Shipley seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Approval of Equipment Loan Requests**. No approvals were requested.
- **Approval of Infrastructure Loan Request**. No approvals were requested.

**Vacancy Petitions for Conservation District Supervisor's Appointments** - Ms. Kim Richardson presented the requests.

- **Vacancy petitions.**
  1. Knox County Conservation-Cloyce Hinkle to serve unexpired term of Don Sullivan (2018)
  2. Woodford County- Steve Isaacs to serve unexpired term of Herman Pittman (2016)
  3. Mason County- Kenton Comer to serve unexpired term of Jim Steele (2016)

Mr. Scotty Parsons moved to approve the petitions. Mr. Sam Hughes seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- **Incentive Per Diem**

#### **1. Taylor County**

- a. Sophia Adams – KACD Convention, spring area meeting
- b. David Cowherd – KACD Convention, Spring area meeting
- c. Debbie Gabbert – KACD Convention, Spring area meeting
- d. Melvin D. Martin – KACD Convention, Spring area meeting
- e. Barry Smith – KACD Convention, Spring area meeting
- f. John McLean – National Bioenergy Day, ten 10 minute trainings

**2. Jackson County**

- a. Tim Wilson – KACD Convention, area 7 spring meeting, 11 regular meetings
- b. Howard Williams – area 7 meeting, ten regular meetings
- c. Eddie J Madden – area 7 meeting, ten regular meetings
- d. Wilson Boggs – 12 regular meetings

**3. Marshall County**

- a. Jeff Futrell – 10 ten minute trainings, area meeting
- b. Kyle O'Dell – 9 ten minute trainings, area meeting
- c. Ronald Hargis – area meeting, KACD, 10 area meeting

**4. Menifee County**

- a. Charlene Smallwood – 12 trainings, area 8 meeting
- b. Dillard Smallwood – 12 trainings, area 8 meeting
- c. Hattie Williams – 12 trainings, area 8 meeting
- d. Penni Combs – 12 trainings, area 8 meeting, KACD Convention
- e. Kenneth Pugh – 11 trainings, area 8 meeting
- f. Kevan Lane – 12 trainings, area 8 meeting

**5. Clinton County**

- a. Roger Beard – 10 Supervisor Trainings, area 7 meeting, KACD Convention
- b. Greg Abston – 10 Supervisor Trainings, area 7 meeting, KACD Convention

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Danny Shipley and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams **Motion carried.**

**Agriculture District Program** - Ms. McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. Eight (8) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 2417.40 acres.

1. Boone County (Petition No. 008-17) – 945.20 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Sam Hughes. **Motion carried.**
2. Campbell County (Petition No.019-15) – 379.25 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**
3. Nelson County (Petition No. 090-14) – 504.00 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons and was seconded by Mr. Billy Doolin. **Motion carried.**
4. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-03) – 633.66 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**
5. Campbell County (019-11 (A8) – 2877.30 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**
6. Campbell County (019-12(A2) – 384.36 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**
7. Oldham County (093-12(A1) – 516.00 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams and was seconded by Mr. Scotty Parsons. **Motion carried.**

**Division of Conservation Report** – Ms. Kim Richardson gave the DOC Report.

- **Update on Fulton County** - Ms. Kim Richardson discussed the ongoing financial situation in Fulton County. Ms. Richardson has been in contact with the Fulton County attorney, who has assured her that the former employee is being charged and forced to pay restitution. Since the board is following the advice of the commission and their field representative, Ms. Richardson told the Fulton County board that they did not have to come to the September commission meeting. The commission wants to keep abreast of any additional movement in this situation. A motion

was made by Scotty Parsons to continue monitoring Fulton County. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

- **Area Resolutions** – Ms. Kim Richardson discussed the resolutions that were presented at the KACD Convention.
  - **Resolution #1** – Mr. Garnett Owens presented a resolution from Warren County for the Farm Service Agency to change their eligibility requirements to allow one application per farm operation, instead of one application per household. The resolution did not pass.
  - **Resolution #2** Mr. David Rowlett presented a resolution from Carroll County asking for KACD to work with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to change the process of DIGS appeals. Carroll County would like the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to receive the DIGS appeals, instead of DOC personnel. It is further proposed that a representative of the appealing county also have the same opportunity to be present to submit information on their own behalf. The resolution passed.
  - **Resolution #3** Mr. Lenville Martin presented a resolution from Floyd County wanting the KACD Committee Conference Calls to count as one qualifying event for the incentive per diem. After the KACD Resolutions Committee voted not to support this resolution, Mr. Martin amended the resolution to state that a KACD Committee Conference Call would count the same as one 10 minute training, as part of one qualifying event. The amended resolution passed.
  - **Resolution #4** Discussions was held to apply a 1.5% fee to each approved state cost share project which is paid on completion of the project to the respective conservation district. The resolution did not pass.
- **Incentive Per Diem Addition** – A discussion was held as to whether or not to add a KACD Committee conference call to be used as a 10 minute training for the Incentive Per Diem. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Scotty Parsons. **Motion carried.**
- **DIGS Appeals** – The commission discussed accepting all appeals instead of having them go through a DOC committee. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams and was seconded by Mr. Scotty Parsons. **Motion Carried.**
- **Districts in Good Standing (DIGS)** – Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed DIGS appeals
  - Bullitt County – Submitted proof of bonding. Upgraded from 75% to 100%.
  - Christian County – No proof of state cost share reports being submitted. Stayed at 75%.
  - Clay County – Submitted proof of SCS, but original report was not submitted on time. Stayed at 75%.
  - Clinton County – Submitted proof of budget and plan of work. Upgraded from 75% to 100%.
  - Fleming County – No proof of bonding. Stayed at 75%.
  - Henry County – Submitted proof of state cost share reports. Upgraded from 75% to 90%.
  - Leslie County – Submitted proof of Fiscal Court visit. Upgraded from 90% to 100%.
  - Livingston County – Submitted proof of state cost share reports. Upgraded from 75% to 100%.
  - Metcalfe County – Submitted proof of Fiscal Court visit, but was not to mee the requirements of the fiscal court visit. Stayed at 75%. Nelson County – No proof of bonding. Stayed at 75%.
  - Perry County – Submitted proof of state cost share reports. Upgraded from 75% to 100%.
  - Trimble County – Submitted proof of corrective measures being submitted. Upgraded from 90% to 100%.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Danny Shipley and was seconded by Mr. Sam Hughes. **Motion carried.**

- **Direct Aid** – Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the updated Direct Aid spreadsheet. The same formula that the commission approved last year was used once again to determine direct aid payments. Points were awarded based on each district's source of funding, number of employees, and available funds. Payments will go out before the end of September. Motion to approve amounts as presented was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried**
- **State Cost Share** – Ms. Kim Richardson updated the commission about the status of the state cost share program. The updated manual should be coming out any day. Districts should continue taking applications until October 31. The districts will have until December 5 to get those applications in to the computer system, and the commission will vote on the rankings at the January meeting.

- **Best Management Practices Pilot Project** – Dr. Steve Higgins spoke about a possible pilot project for showing off best management practices in Washington County. The farmland at St. Catherine’s College has the potential for showing off several best management practices in a real world setting to help fix problems that the farm manager is having. The commission could use state cost share funds to fund these projects, which would allow the site to fix some problems in innovative ways, which could then be used as an educational site for farm tours. The site has an active group of stakeholders who would benefit from this knowledge. The pilot project was approved by Mr. Scott Parsons and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

#### **Agency Reports**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**- Ms. Karen Woodrich spoke on the current state of retirees and the long list of open positions that needed to be filled. The NRCS are working on backfilling vacancies, but with hiring coming out of Washington DC now it is a slower process. Chief Weller wants the NRCS to work with all partners to work on updating conservation planning and helping farmers identify resource concerns and document those concerns. This past year was the biggest year ever for EQIP, with \$16 million allocated to over 700 contracts. The new rollout for CSP will be in November. There will be new training sessions for Toolkit upcoming that Ms. Woodrich urged office personnel to take advantage of.  
Mr. Scotty Parsons asked about NRCS helping with the costs of stream dredging. Ms. Woodrich said that isn’t something that NRCS can fund, but she’d be happy to help Mr. Parsons identify some other resources.
- **Kentucky Department for Natural Resources** – No report presented.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** –No report presented.
- **Agriculture Education/FFA State Advisor**- No report presented.
- **Farm Service Agency** – No report presented.
- **University of Kentucky** – Dr. Steve Higgins had no report, other than the pilot project discussed above..
- **Division of Forestry** – No report presented.
- **KACDE** – No report presented.
- **Mr. David Rowlett KACD President** – Mr. David Rowlett spoke about adopting a partnership program developed by Dr. Kendall Tyree, VASWCD Executive Director. This program will start with a survey asking districts questions about their local programs and concerns about the partnership. Mr. Rowlett is planning to have Dr. Tyree speak at the KACD Convention next year to kick off the program.

**Next Board Meeting** – November 21, 2016 at 300 Hudson Hollow.

**Adjourned** - Mr. Danny Shipley made motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried**